

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PRS-01 NSC-05

USIA-06 SS-15 PA-01 /060 W

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R 271713Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2438

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 14015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, WB, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: PAA PARIS-BERLIN CHARTERS

REF: A) STATE 201452; PARIS 20923' C) BONN 12844,
D) BONN 12530

1. FRENCH CAA LASSUS CALLED AT EMBASSY AUG 22,
TO INFORM US OF GOF DECISION TO DENY PAA LANDING
AUTHORITY FOR ITS PARIS CHARTER PROGRAM. BASING
HIS PRESENTATION ESSENTIALLY ON THE SAME POINTS
REPORTED IN REFTEL A), LASSUS OUT PARTICULAR STRESS
ON THE IMPORTANCE THE GOF ATTACHED TO PROVIDING
AIR FRANCE'S ONLY BERLIN SERVICE WITH AS MUCH
BUSINESS AS POSSIBLE LEST THE CARRIER SHOULD
DECIDE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SERVICE ALTOGETHER.
HE REITERATED THAT THE GOF REMAINED WILLING TO
CONSIDER CHARTER APPLICATIONS BY BERLIN BASED
CARRIERS TO OTHER POINTS IN FRANCE.

2. REVIEWING OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED POLITICAL
ARGUMENTS EMB. CAA EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE
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FRENCH DECISION WHICH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTED

THE FIRST RESTRICTIVE ALLIED ACTION TAKEN AGAINST
BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION. (EARLIER UK PROBLEMS
WITH PAA'S LONDON CHARTERS HAVE, AT LEAST FOR
THE PRESENT, BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH FCO INTER-
VENTION.) WE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED SINCE
ACTIONS SUCH AS THIS MADE THE ALLIES VULNERABLE
TO CHARGES THAT NARROW COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE
BERLIN TRAVELING PUBLIC. WE/ RECOGNIZED THAT
DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE IMPACT OF CHARTERS ON
AIR FRANCE WERE POSSIBLE AND WOULD HAVE WELCOMED
THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT HERE ON THE MATTER
BEFORE THE SGAC MADE ITS DECISION. IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO RECONCILE AIR FRANCE'S
INTERESTS WITH SOME DEGREE OF CHARTER ACTIVITY
BY OTHER CARRIERS--A FAR MORE DESIRABLE OUTCOME
THAN THE PRESENT SITUATION. IN ANY EVENT, WE HOPED
IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO EXAMINE THE MATTER AGAIN
SHOULD IT DEVELOP THAT AIR FRANCE WAS UNABLE TO
HANDLE THE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC PROVIDED BY THE
BERLIN TRAVEL AGENT (AS PAA BELIEVES WILL BE THE
CASE).

3. LASSUS SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR CONCERN AND
HE PERSONALLY WOULD FAVOR RE-OPENING THE QUESTION
OF PARIS CHARTERS IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED.
FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN ASSURED
THAT AIR FRANCE COULD PROVIDE THE NEEDED CAPACITY
AT A PRICE TO THE CUSTOMER OF ONLY DM 50 OVER
PAA'S PROPOSED OFFER. COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE
TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PARIS/BERLIN
MARKET CLOSELY TO DETERMINE IF AIR FRANCE IS IN
FACT PROVIDING ADEQUATE SERVICE FOR ALL PASSENGER
CATEGORIES.
CASH

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